

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

AID-20 EUR-25 DPW-01 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 310920Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

OT RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

UNCLAS SAIGON 13767

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUB: PRG SPOKESMAN ON MAJOR CURRENT ISSUES

FOLLOWING IS PRESS ACCOUNT OF STATEMENTS BY PRG SPOKESMAN IN  
WEEKLY PRG CONFERENCE ON JULY 28 DESCRIBED AS ACCURATE AND  
COMPLETE:

BEGIN PRESS STROY

SAIGON, JULY 28 (UPI) -- THE VIET CONG CONSIDERS IT IMPERATIVE  
THAT THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM FIND AN IMMEDIATE  
REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS), A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN, SR. COL. VO DONG GIANG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE  
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) DELEGATION TO THE  
JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (JMC) SAID AT THE WEEKLY VIET CONG  
NEWS CONFERENCE HE FEARS THERE WILL BE NO MORE PRISONER EXCHANGES  
UNTIL A FOURTH NATION IS SEATED IN THE ICCS.

MOST OF THE REMAINING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN WAR PRISONERS THE TWO  
SIDES ADMIT HOLDING WERE TO HAVE BEEN FREED THIS WEEK BEFORE CANADA'S  
DEPARTURE, NEXT TUESDAY. BUT THE ARRANGEMENTS BROKE DOWN LAST TUESDAY  
AFTER 758 CIVILIANS HELD BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAD  
BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE PRG AT LOC NINH.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9 OF THE (PARIS) AGREEMENT AND ITS

PROTOCOLS, ALL ICCS TEAMS MUST OPERATE AS A SINGLE MEMBER WITH A FULL FOUR MEMBERS AND MUST OPERATE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNANIMITY, NOT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A MAJORITY. THAT IS WHY THE U.S. AND SAIGON SIDE MUST FIND AND INTRODUCE ANOTHER MEMBER COUNTRY BECAUSE IT WAS THEY THAT INTRODUCED CANADA. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES WILL CONTINUE THE RETURN OF PRISONERS WITHOUT ICCS SUPERVISION, IF THE OTHER SIDE AGREES. BUT WE FORESEE THAT WILL NOT BE AGREED UPON BY THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION, GIANG SAID.

HE SAID THE U.S. AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE MADE NO NOMINATION OF A COUNTRY TO REPLACE CANADA IN THE ICCS. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS BUT THEY WERE ALL CARRIED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND WE DO NOT REGARD AS EXACT THESE RUMORS. BUT THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED CANADA AND NOW CANADA IS WITHDRAWING AND THEY HAVE TO INTRODUCE A COUNTRY TO REPLACE CANADA FOR OUR CONSIDERATION, GIANG SAID.

IN THE THREE-HOUR SESSION, GIANG ALSO SAID:

--THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN CAMBODIA MAY INFLUENCE EVENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. I THINK THAT INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES HAVE A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.

--ALTHOUGH THE JUNE 15 PHASE II CEASE-FIRE HAS BEEN A FAILURE, HE DOUBTS THAT THE FOUR PARTIES WILL GET TOGETHER FOR A PHASE III COMMUNIQUE. I AM UNABLE TO FORESEE SUCH AN OCCURRENCE.

--IF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE WISHES TO AVOID HAVING ITS AIRCRAFT FIRED ON OVER VIET CONG TERRITORY, IT MUST COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS ON PROCEDURES FOR SUCH FLIGHTS AND NOTIFY THE VIET CONG IN ADVANCE OF THE FLIGHTS. IT IS NATURAL WE WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM (THE GOVERNMENT) EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF THE AIR SPACE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT CONTROL OF THE GROUND AND CONTROL OF THE AIR ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED.

--THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PARIS CALLING FOR THE PHASE II CEASE-FIRE, RESUMED REGULAR LIAISON FLIGHTS FOR THE VIET CONG TO LOC NINH. BUT WE THINK IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY EXPRESSION OF THEIR GOOD WILL AND THEY ARE PREPARING TO SABOTAGE THIS. AT THE CHIEFS' LEVEL YESTERDAY IN THE JMC, THE SAIGON SIDE POSED A NEW THREAT AND RIDICULOUS CONDITIONS. THEY SAID IF THE PRG DOES NOT RETURN TO THEM THE JEEP THE TWO CANADIAN OFFICERS USED, THEY WILL REVISE ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AGREED ON BY THE FOUR DELEGATIONS, GIANG SAID.

(THE JEEP IN QUESTION WAS DRIVEN BY CAPTS. FLETCHER THOMSON, 25, UNCLASSIFIED

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OTTAWA, AND IAN PATTEN, 31, TORONTO, AT THE TIME OF THEIR CAPTURE BY THE VIET CONG 35 MILES EAST OF SAIGON JUNE 28. THEY WERE FREED JULY 15 BUT THE COMMUNISTS STILL HAVE THEIR JEEP.)

GIANG SAID THE PRG HAS ASKED THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO PICK UP THE JEEP BUT IT HAS FAILED TO DO SO. ALL MEANS OF TRANSPORT USED BY THE ICCS ARE CONSIDERED THE PROPERTY OF THE ICCS, NO MATTER WHOM THEY WERE BORROWED FROM, GIANG SAID.

--BETWEEN JAN. 28 AND JUNE 10 (SIC) SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT

TROOPS AND POLICE VIOLATED THE CEASE-FIRE 102,000 TIMES. FROM JUNE 15 (SIC) THROUGH JULY 24, THE GOVERNMENT VIOLATED THE CEASE-FIRE 45,000 TIMES. (THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMAND REPORTS 19,950 COMMUNIST TRUCE VIOLATIONS FROM JAN. 28 THROUGH FRIDAY NOON).  
END PRESS STORY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: REGARDING THE MATTER OF THE MISSING ICCS JEEP, THE GVN DEL MINUTES OF THE MEETING SHOW BG PHAN HOA HIEP AS SAYING: "REQUEST THAT THE NLF SPEEDILY RETURN THIS JEEP TO THE GVN SINCE IT IS EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR THE PEACE. IF THIS PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED, THE GVN WILL BE FORCED TO RECONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES.")  
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